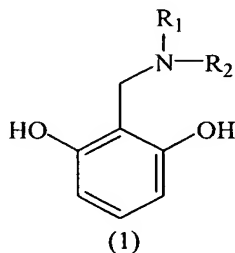


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, C_1 to C_5 alkyl, C_1 to C_5 mono or dihydroxyalkyl, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl, amino or C_1 to C_3 alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 to C_5 mono or dihydroxyalkyl and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl or amino ~~or~~ C_1 to C_3 alkoxy group, or R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a C_3 to C_6 saturated or unsaturated ring containing in the ring one or more additional hetero atoms selected from O, S and N atoms.

2. (Currently amended) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_3 alkyl group, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with an alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl ~~or~~ and benzyl ~~optionally substituted with an alkoxy group~~, or R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a piperazine, imidazole, or morpholine ring.

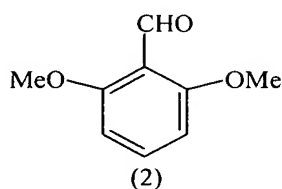
3. (Original) A compound of Claim 2 wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is phenyl.

4. (Canceled)

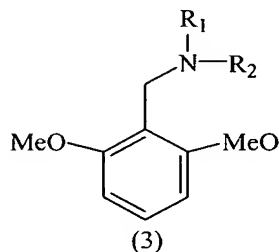
5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

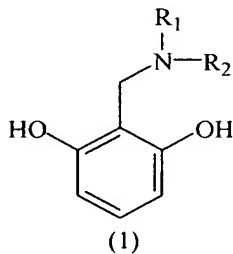
7. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) of Claim 1 comprising (a) reacting an ~~2,5-dimethoxy-benzaldehyde~~ 2,6-dimethoxy-benzaldehyde of formula (2)



with a reagent of the formula R_1R_2NH and a reductive amination reducing agent to produce a compound of formula (3)



and (b) deprotecting the compound of formula (3) by reacting with a deprotection agent producing a compound of formula (1):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in Claim 1.

8. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 7 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_3 alkyl group, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with an alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of a phenyl or and benzyl ~~optionally substituted with an alkoxy group~~, or R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a piperazine, imidazole, or morpholine ring.

9. (Original) A process according to Claim 2 wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is phenyl.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

- 2-phenylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-piperidin-1-yl-methyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-(pyridin-3-yl-aminomethyl)-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-dimethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-dihydroxyethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-hydroxymethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-imidazolin-1-yl-methyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-morpholin-4-yl-methyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-benzylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
- 2-aminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol; and
- 2-(2-methoxy)phenylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol.